

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE AND BRIAN WORELL, BOK, BAKER, FLAHERTY, BREADON, LARA, MEJIA, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO UTILIZE AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT FEDERAL AND STATE COVID
RECOVERY FUNDS TO CREATE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR
RETURNING CITIZENS

WHEREAS, Increasing affordable and transitional housing in Boston is critical to the success of re-entry: a recent Boston reentry study indicates that twelve months after prison, 43 percent of individuals were staying in transitional or marginal housing; and

WHEREAS, Even when a Parole Board grants a positive parole vote to an individual, it is not a guarantee of the individual's release as they must have an approved home plan, but a home plan is often denied because the client may not be listed as a tenant on a Section 8 lease due to federal regulations making it difficult for parolees to live with family in Section 8 housing; *and*

WHEREAS, Newly released returning citizens, including parolees and probationers, face chronic homelessness and housing instability require dedicated financial housing supports and assistance, including providing a continuum of care of job training and placement, vocational training, credit building, primary health care, mental health, wellness, and substance abuse programs; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal and State funds for Boston's Covid-19 recovery can create the opportunity to invest in our formerly incarcerated individuals and housing that makes Boston a more equitable city while creating a city that prioritizes stability for those who need it the most; *and*

WHEREAS, Our prison and punishment system upholds a structurally racist society by disproportionately imprisoning those in Black and Latinx communities and perpetuates those inequities by not providing resources for housing opportunities for those recently released from incarceration; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss utilizing ARPA federal and state Covid-19 recovery funds to create housing options for returning citizens and that the Office of Returning Citizens, Mayor's Office of Housing, Boston Housing Authority, and related departments, government entities, non-profits, and interested individuals be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: April 27, 2022